

Israeli crossing point under attack

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas attacked a crossing point into Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" with anti-tank rockets Monday, security sources said. A guerrilla group said its fighters hit a car carrying Israeli intelligence officers with anti-tank rockets and machinegun fire at the Beit Yaloun crossing into the zone. In a telephone call to an international news organisation in Beirut, a spokesman for the Faithful Resistance said all officers in the car were killed or wounded in the attack. "Someone hit something with some rocket-propelled grenades at Beit Yaloun," said a security source. "But it is tough to see what happened until all the retaliatory firing comes to a stop." He said Israeli troops and their Lebanese militia allies in the South Lebanon Army (SLA) responded to the attack by strafing areas north of the "security zone" with tank cannon and mortar bombs. Security sources said guerrillas fired four rockets at the "security zone" late Sunday and Israeli artillery retaliated by shelling the village of Braachit. There were no reports of casualties in that attack.

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ix new envoys
resent credentials

AMMAN (Petra) — Six new ambassadors Monday presented their credentials to His Majesty King Hussein in separate ceremonies held at the Royal Court. These ambassadors were Ali Al Amiri of Sudan, Yuji Ikeda of Japan, Fernando Silva Alves of Brazil, Guy Westerrouer van den Bergh of the Netherlands, Mario Alberto of Bolivia and Abdul Rahman Shoudri of Bangladesh. The ceremonies were attended by Royal Court Chief of Protocol Al Karaki and Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber.

saudi prince arrives
Cairo for talks

AIRO (R) — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz arrived in Cairo Monday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Middle East issues, officials said. Since Abdullah came from Syria here he discussed with President Hafez Al Assad the flagging Arab-Israeli peace process. The prince is the kingdom's first deputy prime minister.

J.S. congressman
visits Beirut

EIRUT (AP) — U.S. Representative Christopher Cox arrived Monday on a fact-finding mission that local radio stations interpreted as breaking the American law ban on travel to Lebanon. But the California Republican disputed the radios' belief, saying his trip was not signed to violate any U.S. government policies. "I am here with my California friends to meet Lebanese officials of the government. I will learn and listen and understand the new Lebanon and then report to Congress," Mr. Cox told the Associated Press. Mr. Cox, 40, said he would stay in Beirut for three days and seek meetings with President Hafez Hariri and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. "I am here on behalf of myself and the over 200 Americans I represent. I will conduct a number of visits and will brief you on the outcome," Mr. Cox said.

Vaish: Bush
misused power

ASHINGTON (R) — Iran contra special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh accused former President George Bush Monday of issuing his power by pardoning former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger even before he stood trial on criminal charges. "President Bush's pardon violated the public airing of new and disturbing facts about the actions of Weinberger and other senior executive branch officials in the Iran-contra affair," Mr. Walsh said in an interim report in his office of independence counsel. Mr. Bush pardoned Mr. Weinberger and other Iran contra figures on Dec. 24, less than two weeks before Mr. Weinberger was to stand trial on criminal charges of lying in testimony to congressional and criminal investigations.

ash floods strike
den; 20 missing

NAA (AP) — About 20 people drowned or were missing in flash floods in southern Yemen last week. The port city of Aden, security officials said Monday, was isolated by flooding that began Sunday night. Scores of houses were swept away and hundreds left homeless by flooding that began Sunday night. Highways between Aden and the capital, Sanaa, have been blocked and communication links severed, making it difficult to obtain detailed reports. Air and sea ports were closed and Aden's broadcasting stations were off the air. A major operation was under way in areas to which the homeless had moved.

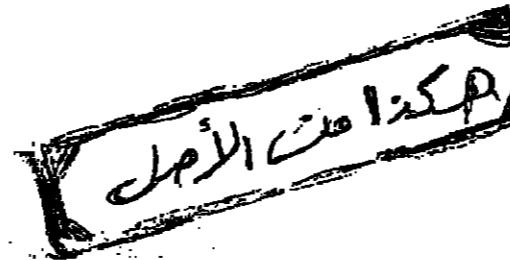
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"Either all of us are allowed home or none of us will go."

The five were flown by helicopter.

The loan guarantees, granted



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردن تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية (الرأي)

No breakthrough seen in Yemen-Saudi talks

NICOSIA (AP) — A recent exchange of messages between leaders of Saudi Arabia and Yemen could pave the way for better ties, but no immediate breakthrough in solving their border dispute is expected, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday. The weekly oil and economic newsletter, published in Nicosia, said it had learned that despite prospects for improved relations, the border talks were likely to remain bogged down in technical details. The economic survey did not disclose its sources, but it is known to have good contacts throughout the oil and industrial sectors in the region. The border dispute, which concerns an oil-rich strip, has alarmed foreign oil companies that operate in the area. Abdel Aziz Al Dali, the Yemeni minister of state for cabinet affairs, carried a message from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to King Fahd at the end of last month. Shortly after, Saudi Minister of Education Abdul Aziz Al Khwaiher visited the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, with a message for Mr. Saleh from King Fahd. Both sides expressed interest in improving relations, which have been stormy since the Gulf crisis.

Israelis kill 3 Palestinians — 10th in 4 days of violence

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed three Palestinian youths in the West Bank Monday in surging violence that has left 10 Palestinians dead in the occupied territories since Friday.

Troops killed one teenager Sunday night in the village of Toubas during a demonstration in support of Gaza residents, and shot dead two Monday in the nearby village of Tamous during protests against the arrest of a Palestinian.

Human rights activists have expressed alarm at the rising death toll — the bloodiest four days in more than two years — and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was asked about it at a meeting of his ruling Labour Party.

But, according to an official who briefed reporters on Mr. Rabin's response, the hardline former general said soldiers did not have the powers they needed. "They have a feeling that they don't have all the tools," Mr.

Rabin was quoted as saying. The prime minister told his party the army had eased the rules for entering houses where it believed "wanted" men were hiding: "First we enquire, then we warn and then we shoot."

He did not say what the previous procedures were.

In the 54 days since Mr. Rabin expelled hundreds of Palestinians to Lebanon, Israeli troops have killed 41 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the latest killings, Palestinians and the army said a 17-year-old from the West Bank village of Toubas, Mithqal Yousef Daraghmeh, was shot dead by soldiers Sunday night while he was trying to rally support for Arabs in the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians said the two killed in Tamous — Imad Bank Odeh, 17, and Alaa Bani Odeh, 18 — were killed in clashes that followed a raid on a house by soldiers dressed as Arabs.

The army, which confirmed the

deaths, said troops captured Mohammed Odeh, 27, whom it described as a wanted member of Fatah. Palestinian sources said he was wounded in the raid.

The round of violence began last Friday when the army shot without warning at a car containing a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip, killing three. In subsequent demonstrations, three more Gazans

were killed by army gunfire.

A seventh Palestinian, 16-year-old Riad Abdul Nabi, died when paramilitary border police shot him through the neck during a clash Sunday in the refugee camp of Shufat in Arab East Jerusalem.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem produced a report on Sunday showing a sharp rise in deaths — especially of Palestinians under the age of 16 — after Mr. Rabin took over last July from the right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir.

Since the Palestinian revolt

against occupation began in De-

cember 1987, at least 1,013 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis.

"After five years of intifada, the security forces have much experience in dealing with stone-throwing and demonstrations and have at their disposal effective, non-lethal means to deal with these situations," B'Tselem said.

"B'Tselem maintains that the security forces must limit themselves to these measures during situations in which human lives are not in danger."

The Israeli army meanwhile released two Reuter journalists detained while covering the violence in the Gaza Strip.

Reporter Taher Shireh and cameraman Marwan Al Ghol, both Palestinians, were arrested Sunday and their film and equipment were confiscated. They were not charged. They were released on bail of 500 shekels (\$200).

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No peace talks without return of all expellees, PLO aide says

Combined agency dispatches

ARAB-ISRAELI peace talks will resume only after Israel commits itself to bring home hundreds of expelled Palestinians and pledges not to use expulsions as punishment again, a senior adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Monday.

Nabil Shaath, a senior political aide to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, urged the new U.S. administration to pressure Israel into returning the expellees from Lebanon and resume Washington's dialogue with the PLO.

"The peace process cannot resume as it was without the return of the (expellees)," Dr. Shaath told the Associated Press. "Any illusion that there can be another solution is harmful."

He was interviewed a day after Mr. Arafat ended talks with President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian officials about the crisis over the evictees and the Middle East peace process.

"There must be an understand-

ing that there will be no more expulsions. We want a clear understanding to ensure that Israel will not use the weapon of expulsions again" during negotiations, Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath's only hint of compromise was that the PLO could accept resuming peace talks in April if Israel commits itself to a short-term timetable for repatriating the evictees. But he said suggestions offered last week by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were unacceptable.

"Rabin's proposal is not a solution," Dr. Shaath said. "There has to be a comprehensive solution, not a partial solution."

Israel expelled the Palestinians on Dec. 17 in ostensible reprisal for the deaths of six Israeli soldiers. Mr. Rabin's government has refused to rescind the expulsions despite international condemnation and a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding their repatriation.

"The United States has to find a solution for this crisis or we cannot imagine continuation of

(Continued on page 5)

Expellees rule out evacuation of sick

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (R) — Palestinian expellees said Monday they would refuse to allow the evacuation of any more sick and wounded to Israel, even if they died.

The Palestinians, expelled by Israel on Dec. 17, banned any more evacuation of casualties after Israeli troops took five sick evictees from a hospital in the Jewish state's self-styled "security zone" to jail in Israel Sunday.

Israel said the five, evacuated from the camp by the Red Cross aboard helicopters in January, were on a list of 101 of the evictees. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said a week ago would be allowed to return from exile immediately.

The 396 evictees rejected the U.S.-brokered offer and Mr. Rabin's cutting the term in exile for the rest to a maximum of one year as a manoeuvre to avoid U.N. sanctions against Israel.

Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, the leader of the group, said the five sick were forced to return to Israel and were not given the choice of staying in the "security zone" or returning to the camp.

"We refuse any new Red Cross effort to move our sick to the 'security zone' after what happened to the five. Even if anyone dies we cannot allow sick or wounded to go to the zone," he told Reuters.

"Either all of us are allowed home or none of us will go."

The five were flown by helicopter.

Israel does not expect any cut in American aid

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said after meeting the head of the U.S. Senate subcommittee in charge of foreign aid Monday that he did not expect any cut in U.S. assistance to Israel.

Mr. Shohat said he did not discuss cuts with Senator Patrick Leahy and said Israel would fight any reduction. The new Clinton administration is searching for ways to slash the U.S. budget deficit.

"I am very pleased it did not arise today in the discussion with Senator Leahy," Mr. Shohat said, adding he did not believe it would be raised during the visit.

"I think we have to make an effort if the problem arises to prevent a cut in economic and military aid," the finance minister told reporters.

Mr. Leahy, who arrived Sunday, said his visit focused on the planned use of the \$10 billion in loan guarantees that Washington gave to Israel last year.

Israel also receives \$3 billion in annual grants — \$1.8 billion in military aid and \$1.2 in economic aid. Israel is by far the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid — receiving about a fifth of all U.S. foreign assistance.

Mr. Leahy later met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for talks that Mr. Rabin's spokesman said covered everything from the economy to Middle East peace prospects.

Mr. Leahy has pushed for reforming the way almost \$15 billion in U.S. foreign aid is allocated. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said last month some military aid programmes could be reduced with the end of the cold war.

The loan guarantees, granted

Rabinovitch sees early resumption of talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israel's new ambassador to the United States said Monday that he expected Arab-Israeli peace talks to resume very soon.

Arriving to take up his post, Itamar Rabinovitch declined to predict precisely when Arab delegations might return to the negotiating table, but spoke of their "perceivable desire" to do so.

"Very soon, very soon," he told Reuters television at Washington's national airport, when asked when he expected the Arab negotiators to return.

"I don't think there's a point in setting timetables," said Mr. Rabinovitch, who has been Israel's chief delegate in peace talks with Syria.

"But I think in terms of our desire to continue and the perceptible desire that we see on the other side to continue ... there is no reason that peace talks should be delayed for an undue period," he said.

Arab-Israeli peace negotiations have been suspended since mid-December, when Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabinovitch paid tribute to what he called the Clinton administration's "good will" as another factor favouring the resumption of early peace talks.

"This new administration and our government have already worked together closely on trying to resolve some of the problems of the past few weeks," he said.

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Incumbent wins Cyprus poll but losers hold balance

NICOSIA (Agencies) — President George Vassiliou, pledging to push a U.N. plan to reunite Cyprus, surprised even his own supporters with an easy win in the first round of elections on the island, analysts said Monday.

But losing parties who favour a tougher line to end the Turkish occupation of the north could still tip the balance in next Sunday's run-off and analysts were reluctant to predict certain victory for the communist-backed millionaire.

Mr. Vassiliou, an independent, won 44.15 per cent of the vote in Sunday's polling, held only in the internationally-recognised southern two-thirds of Cyprus.

That was well above predictions but below the more than 50 per cent he needed to avoid a second round.

Jubilant Vassiliou supporters said the run-off with Glafcos Clerides, a 73-year-old conservative who won 36.74 per cent of the vote, would be a mere formality.

"The gap is too large to bridge. If I were Clerides I would withdraw from the race," Mr. Vassiliou told his supporters as soon as the final results were announced.

Businessman Paschalas Paschalides, backed by the Salvation

Front alliance, came in third with 18.64 per cent of the vote but holds the balance of power.

"We will have to wait and see what deals are struck this week," one analyst said. "There's going to be a lot of hard bargaining."

Mr. Clerides, who heads the island's largest party, the Democratic Rally, said Mr. Paschalides' supporters would lift him to victory.

The election was dominated by debate on how to reunite Cyprus, divided by the "green line" since invading Turkish troops seized the northern third in 1974. About 2,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops keep the two sides apart.

Mr. Vassiliou, a self-made millionaire, came under fire during the campaign for backing a U.N. plan to end the division.

The plan, based on a set of ideas prepared by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and endorsed by the Security Council, proposes making Cyprus a binational, bi-communal federation.

Talks between Mr. Vassiliou and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, who heads the breakaway state in the north recognised only by Ankara, reached deadlock in November. A new round of talks is scheduled for March.

Mr. Vassiliou says he has pulled the Cyprus issue out of international obscurity, put Turkey in a difficult position and brought a settlement closer than ever.

"We will go to New York in March. But if the Turkish side refuses to cooperate then the Security Council will issue a new, stronger resolution which could provide for sanctions," he said during the campaign.

Mr. Clerides, who served with the British air force during World War II, says the peace plan as it stands violates basic human rights and would exclude Cyprus from the European Community.

He says he will try to postpone the talks and reject the draft plan unless it is substantially changed.

Mr. Paschalides campaigned for the complete rejection of the peace plan. Commentators said his poor showing indicated Greek Cypriots wanted to give the U.N. initiative a chance.

Mr. Vassiliou told cheering supporters: "This is not a personal victory, but a victory for Cyprus. The message is that the people want to continue on a path taking advantage of the favourable international climate and increased pressure on Turkey for reaching a just settlement."

Mr. Clerides also appeared confident of victory. "This is not the final result, wait till next Sunday," he said.

Mr. Vassiliou is seeking a second five-year term as an independent backed by the Communist Party.

Mr. Clerides, making his third run at the presidency, is backed by his right-wing Democratic Rally Party.

Mr. Paschalides, now out of the race, was backed by the centrist Democratic Party and the Socialists. He also had the blessing of the powerful primate of Cyprus' Greek Orthodox Church, Archbishop Chrysostomos.

UNICEF tackles measles epidemic in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Monday it aimed to vaccinate 750,000 children threatened by measles in ruined Somalia, where the disease is killing hundreds every week.

Last year 75,000 Somali children died from measles and 95,000 from diarrhoeal dehydration as war and famine gripped the Horn of Africa country.

"We are launching a blitz within weeks to vaccinate more than 750,000 children under the age of five because measles is still killing hundreds a week," UNICEF spokesman Ian MacLeod told Reuters.

UNICEF vaccinated 250,000 children last year. But operations had been hampered by poor security and the lack of trained local health workers in anarchic Somalia, Mr. MacLeod.

The arrival in December of a U.S.-led multinational military force to speed up delivery of food aid to the starving had generally improved security, he said. But it also deprived agencies of their private guards.

"Previously we used to travel almost anywhere we wanted because we were protected by armed so-called technicals, but these are no longer allowed to carry guns as part of measures by the task force to clean up place of gunmen.

"As a result, our operations have been curtailed because we were protected by armoured vehicles all the time. In fact our vehicle was looted here in Mogadishu only last week. This would

not have happened before," he said.

UNICEF also needed transport such as helicopters to penetrate Somalia's hinterland and this could be provided only by the 23-nation force of 37,000 troops, he said.

"We have held discussions with the U.S. military on this. They seemed excited about it but have not done anything about it so far," Mr. MacLeod said.

Also hampering the vaccination programme was the lack of trained Somali health staff.

"Presently we have 22 international health workers helping with the vaccination programme but we really need lots of local staff to make the programme sustainable as the child killer diseases will continue to be problems for a long time," he said.

More than 300,000 people died of famine in Somalia in the past two years after gunmen owing allegiance to several political factions systematically looted food aid for an estimated two million people threatened with starvation.

The gunmen, who still clash almost daily with the multinational force, took over Somalia after rebels toppled long-ruling military dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

Italians kill bandits

Italian troops shot dead two Somalian bandits and captured a third in Mogadishu gunbattles, a U.S. military spokesman said Monday. Master Sergeant Perry Champ said the Italians took on the bandits about to rob a group

of Somalis in the capital during the night.

The bandits fired at the Italian patrol and began to flee. The Italians gave chase, killing two and wounding and capturing another bandit. One bandit

escaped, he told reporters.

The bandits were the latest to be killed by the U.S.-led multinational force sent to Somalia in December to speed up movement of food aid to the country's starving.

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French soldiers search for mines on a road west of Mogadishu. The French unit of the multinational force in Somalia have cleared mines on over 1,000 kilometres of roads (AFP photo)

escaped," he told reporters.

The

Queen Noor checks progress of handicraft training centre



Her Majesty Queen Noor discusses advantages of Jordanian clay with a trainee at the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre Monday (Photo by George Crystal)

achieve self-reliance.

The center offers a free three-year programme with a capacity to accommodate 90 students in ceramics and weaving. Sixty-one students (41 females and 20 males) currently receive training under the supervision of Jordanian instructors who had undergone special intensive training in the overall NHF comprehensive and integrated approach development, whereby traditionally rooted and locally available resources are utilised both to serve Jordan's national heritage and help crafts people launch income-generating schemes, leading to enhancing their living standards and helping them

In addition to technical skills in crafts production, students also take relevant courses in history, Arabic, English and management. The first batch of students (22) graduated in 1991 and have received assistance from the centre either in starting their craft production schemes or in joining the

MAN (Petra) — A high-level delegation led by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben-Zeid left Moscow Monday at the start of the Russian Federation and the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union.

The delegation is carrying messages to the heads of countries expressing Jordan's eagerness to bolster cooperation in a number of fields. Petra said the delegation, which includes individuals from

the private and the public sectors, will discuss scopes of future cooperation between Jordan and the independent states in political, economic, social and cultural fields.

The agency quoted delegation members as saying that they will offer Jordan's expertise to these countries and open the Al Al-Bait University in Mafrqa to their students.

Petra said Jordan will soon appoint resident and non-resident ambassadors to these countries.

Home News in Brief

Crown Prince condoles family in south

AAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday conveyed His Majesty King Hussein's condolences to relatives of the family that died tragically last week in the southern village of Al Marigha. A mother and six children died from carbon dioxide fumes of a home-made heater in their single room house. Prince Hassan said he planned to make a comprehensive tour of the south to listen to and discuss the needs of the local residents and their councils.

Education ministry creates audit office

MAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thoqan Al-Hindawi decided Monday to create two new departments within the Ministry of Education as part of the administrative reform plan. The two departments will be responsible for internal inspection, auditing and administrative control.

Governor shuts down factories, restaurants in Balqa

LT (Petra) — Balqa Governor Eid Al-Qatarni decided today to close two dairy product factories and two restaurants he governs. Mr. Qatarni, Chairman of the governorate's health safety committee, said the closure orders were issued because the establishments did not abide by health and public safety regulations. Meanwhile, the committee issued warnings to retail stores in the industrial areas of Salt for violating health regulations.

Jerash to combat rabies problem

RASH (Petra) — Jerash district Governor Khalid Al-Khreisha decided to make arrangements to combat stray dogs in the district. At a meeting Monday attended by the directors of the district's health and agriculture departments and the chief of the police Department, the danger of stray dogs was discussed. The district will launch a campaign to combat the spread of rabies, which was transmitted by dogs to 120 people in the district in 1992, four people this year.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.

Exhibition of watercolor paintings by Syrian artist Nazir Abu'l-Balaq Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by the late Syrian artist Alfred Hatim Al-Balaq Art Gallery in Fuheis city.

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Huda Khal, Suha Noursi and Afaf Rayak — at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation Gallery in Al Amman, between the First and Second Circles.

Exhibition of photographs by Jean-Philippe Reverdot at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

German film entitled "Der Schatz der Vernunft" at 8 p.m. at Goethe Institute (82 min., 1983).

Princess Sarvath inaugurates west Amman Blood Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath and American Ambassador to Jordan Roger Harrison inaugurated Monday in Amman the first branch of the National Blood Bank. The branch was established at the request of six private hospitals located in west Amman.

The branch is equipped to collect blood from donors and to provide blood and blood products for all planned and emergency procedures. The branch will remain open 24 hours every day and will substantially reduce the time involved in receiving blood for acute emergency cases from the National Blood Bank in Ashrafia.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) contributed more than \$400,000 in technical assistance, medical equipment, initial supplies, and training costs for the branch. Technical assistance for the branch was provided by Blood Systems Inc. in Scottsdale, Arizona, which is affiliated to the Association of American Blood Banks.

The inauguration ceremony was also attended by the Minister of Health, the director of the National Blood Bank, the USAID director in Jordan, and a large number of figures from the



Princess Sarvath looks on as citizen donor gives blood at the west Amman Blood Bank opened Monday

medical profession.

In May 1991, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan commissioned a study to explore the need and feasibility of establishing blood bank branches throughout the Kingdom. The study concluded that such establishments are vital to save the lives of citizens in need of blood in acute emergency situations.

Satellite branches dispersed throughout the Kingdom will substantially reduce the time-lag experienced by Jordanian hospitals in receiving blood and blood products from the National Blood Bank in Ashrafia.

The first branch was opened in west Amman because of the presence of six large hospitals in the area, and because of the volume of acute emergency situations handled by these hospitals. It is also intended as a model to demonstrate the feasibility and usefulness of establishing similar branches throughout Jordan.

Japan reaffirms role in peace process, support for Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan has reaffirmed its key role in the Middle East peace process and continued engagement in efforts at various levels to advance the process, a Japanese embassy spokesman said Monday.

The spokesman was commenting on the talks a Japanese delegation held here this week with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials.

The delegation, headed by Yoshiji Nogami, Deputy Director of the Near East and Africa Desk at the Foreign Ministry, left Jordan Monday.

"The visit aimed at reviewing the peace process as well as Jordanian-Japanese relations," said the spokesman.

During the talks, Mr. Nogami reaffirmed Japan's key interest

in the Middle East peace process and its continued role, along with the co-sponsors of the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in trying to achieve peace in the region, the spokesman told the Jordan Times.

The spokesman noted that Japan is a member of working groups of the multilateral phase of the peace process and heads the panel on the environment. He said Japan believed that it could play a significant role in the multilateral phase of the peace process.

"Japan takes a special interest in water-related issues and its expertise could help solve some of the water problems" facing Jordan as well as other countries

in the region, he said, referring to the vast experience and technology his country has in addressing water shortages.

The Crown Prince and the Japanese official reviewed scopes of cooperation between Japan and Jordan in enhancing the Middle East peace process, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The Crown Prince described the countries between the Mediterranean Sea and the Arab Gulf as a single regional unit, linked and affected by common economic, political, social, security and environmental concerns.

Among the officials Mr. Nogami, who last visited Jordan in March 1991, met in Amman with Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Water and Irrigation Minister Samir Kawar.

The Japanese spokesman declined to elaborate on the talks, but said Japan had also reassured Jordan of Tokyo's continued support on various bilateral levels, including financial assistance to the Kingdom.

According to the spokesman, Japan pledged to extend aid to Jordan during the Jan. 27-28 meeting in Paris of a consultative group of donor countries.

"The details of the assistance are being worked out," the spokesman said without giving any figures.

Japan has been and remains to be one of the consistent sources of assistance for Jordan.

Attending the Japanese delegation's talks here was the new Japanese ambassador to Jordan, Yuji Ikeda.

PSD to begin traffic safety campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Traffic Department at the Public Security Department (PSD) Thursday will begin a public awareness campaign on traffic safety that will run throughout the year, a department statement said.

Traffic Department Director Ahmad Dumour told the Jordan

News Agency, Petra, that one day a week, 30 university students will be stationed along main streets to help traffic police in controlling the flow of traffic and distributing traffic safety information leaflets.

The campaign aims to reduce the number of road accidents, said Brigadier Dumour, adding that it will be useful to pedestrians as well as motorists.

He said motorists should ensure that their vehicles are in good working orders and strictly abide by traffic road signs and regulations to avoid accidents.

Storm to centre on south

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is expected to experience severe weather conditions today that will bring rain and choppy seas to Aqaba.

A spokesman for the Department of Meteorology said Monday that a depression which is centred over Cyprus will affect the country Monday evening through Tuesday. Several cold fronts will bring rain to all regions and snow to areas 900 metres above sea-level.

But the spokesman said the storm will be concentrated in the southern regions of the Kingdom.

The department forecasts maximum temperatures of 7°C, dropping to 1°C at night in the eastern highlands.

Produce exporters form new society

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian agricultural produce exporters Monday announced the creation of the Jordanian Society of Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables (JSEFV).

In an address to the society's constituent assembly meeting at the Amman Chamber of Commerce, agricultural engineer Jamil Zureiqat said the JSEFV was a necessity following the difficulties encountered in exporting Jordan's produce over the past two years.

The society plans to ensure continued exports to Arab countries and open new markets in Europe, Asia and Africa, Mr. Zureiqat said.

Members of JSEFV were quoted as saying that the society will dedicate its efforts towards diversifying its produce line, conducting research aimed at improving quality; introducing measures for better packaging and shipment; and publishing daily bulletins on world market prices, specifications and standards.

They added that the society will coordinate matters regarding land, sea and air shipments and organise agricultural fairs in Jordan and abroad.

Delegates representing 38 firms and agricultural companies in Jordan attended the constituent assembly meeting to discuss bylaws and statutes.

They said their next step will be to register the society with the Ministry of Social Development in accordance with Jordanian laws.

PSD reactivates residency law, violators face fines, imprisonment

AMMAN (Petra) — Non-Jordanian citizens living in the Kingdom will face fines and even imprisonment if they fail to abide strictly by the regulations of the Residents and Aliens Affairs Law of 1974.

Public Security Department (PSD) official Adel Armouti told a press conference in Amman

Monday that the government was going to reactivate the law which had not been strictly enforced.

Brigadier Armouti, who is in charge of the PSD's Borders and Aliens Affairs Department, said the reactivation of the law, due to begin Mar. 1, was necessary to bring the status of foreign residency in the country under control.

Brig. Armouti said non-Jordanians should report to police stations to renew their residency permits at least two weeks before the expiration date, according to Article II of the law.

Article 12 requires foreigners to report any change of address to police stations within 48 hours of

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
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House of glass and issues

THE LOWER House of Parliament appears to have become increasingly assertive in its final days of office, and it is hard to tell whether the deputies' interests in the issues they have been raising lately are for real or are intended purely for electioneering purposes, particularly when the next elections are just around the corner. Only a few weeks ago many deputies moved to curtail the government's right to appoint civil servants even though no parliament in any part of the world interferes with this prerogative except with regard to the most senior executive posts. On Sunday, there was another occasion in which a large number of deputies tried in vain to adopt a motion prohibiting the country from boycotting or imposing sanctions against another Arab state.

No doubt most of those who backed the latter move acted with best of intentions, but they were obviously not fully versed with relevant international law and diplomatic relations between countries based on international treaties. The prime movers behind the proposal, however, seemed to be trying to capitalise on public sentiment, which is still largely favourable to Iraq, and they thus attempted to draw attention to the bind in which many Arab governments have found themselves. The paradox here was the need to heed U.N. Security Council resolutions on Iraq while at the same time remain loyal and true to Arabism and its cause. What may have strengthened the stance of the supporters of this position is the fact that many countries continue to flout Security Council resolutions with impunity, making Iraq the sole U.N. member state accountable for total adherence to such decisions.

In this sense, the deputies who introduced the motion that aimed to give precedence to Arab nationalism over international resolutions that are selectively implemented, did the right thing. But to correct the imbalances and double standards in the application of international law and U.N. resolutions would require at least joint Arab action and Third World solidarity, which are not available for now. Jordan is just too vulnerable on its own to take on the task of rejecting the observance of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

The reality of the situation must be clear to all. The Arab countries are sovereign member states of the United Nations. No amount of rhetoric, however good intentioned, can change this fact. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, it flouted not only international law but also the Arab League's Charter. The Western reaction that followed was admittedly perpetrated with the worst intentions possible, but the fact remains that Baghdad has to take responsibility for its own actions. Still, the Iraqi people have paid a heavy price, and they now need the sanctions against them lifted. The way to do that lies not in unilateral violation of the relevant Security Council resolution but by a new outlook and vision by the Arab World as a whole. There is every need on our part to bury the past and start planning for a better, brighter future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN'S INTEREST in launching cooperation with the Russian Federation and the newly independent republics of the former Soviet Union reflects the Kingdom's keenness on building the best possible relations and establishing the strongest ties with more than 50 million Muslims, said Al Dustour Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that Jordan wants to found this relationship on the basis of affection, mutual confidence and collective action in cultural, social and political fields. King Hussein, in his address to the delegation leaving for Moscow on this noble mission reflected Jordan's feelings and orientation and pointed out that its members should attempt to create with these states the highest level of brotherly ties, the paper continued. It said that the Kingdom will offer all possible assistance to the newly independent states to help them cope with the increasing demands entailed in the recent socio-political changes witnessed in their countries. It said that the basis of all future contacts and relations with these republics is the Islamic faith which calls for solidarity among members of the Islamic Nations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily welcomed the coming tour of the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, noting that it must be aimed at stimulating the peace process. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the tour will not do but an end to unfounded rumours that the new U.S. administration is indifferent to the situation in the Middle East region. It is an established fact, said the writer, that unless this peace process is backed by a major power or powers, it is bound to collapse. But, he said, it should be noted here that such a process can by no means find its way towards success unless the question of the expelled Palestinians has been settled in a fair and just manner and in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799. The writer said that the U.S. administration ought to realise that the expellees' question is not a mere humanitarian matter, but rather it reflects the deep-rooted problem of Israeli occupation of Arab land that has plagued the region for so long and obstructed all bids for genuine peace. The U.S. administration should realise that in its war against the Palestinians, Israel has been flouting all U.N. resolutions and international principles and by deporting the 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon it showed total disregard to the Geneva Conventions, added Mr. Rimawi. He said that Israel has placed a major obstacle in the path of Mr. Christopher's mission and has poisoned the atmosphere of the peace process.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Stability vs. dignity — let's talk, once again

United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trip to the Middle East later this month has a familiar — almost a routine — ring about it, which rather lowers the excitement quotient that it might otherwise generate. Once again, we face not the promise of peace in our lifetime, but the slightly less dramatic certainty of a new U.S. Secretary of State travelling to the Middle East in a bid to promote the elusive "peace process." As Arab and Israeli politicians and national leaders both curiously review the new folks in the White House and try to establish lines of diplomatic credit, the vast majority of Arab people greet the U.S. envoy with the political equivalent of a collective yawn.

The reason, of course, is that we have been through this routine so many times in modern history that it no longer seems as important or as promising as it once was. The immediate crisis over the fate of the 400 expelled Palestinians dramatically highlights the underlying forces that give rise to widespread Arab doubt about the value of visiting U.S. secretaries of state. Courtesy and rationality dictate that we greet the visitor with decorum and civility, but gut political instinct and the compelling lessons of recent experience suggest to us that what we may be seeing is closer to the realm of tourism than history.

The Christopher visit quickly discards the prevalent view around this region that the new Clinton administration would make the Middle East a low priority. The symbolism of Mr. Christopher's first foreign trip to the Middle East, specifically to address the issue of Palestinian human rights and the prospects for Arab-Israeli peace-making, is a clear indicator that the problems of this region will continue to impose themselves on the mind and agenda of the world. The Clinton folks may like to downgrade the Middle East on their priorities list, but the dynamics of a region riddled with injustice and human discontent will not allow this to happen.

The controversy over Israel's treatment of the expelled Palestinians highlights a certain sense of history catching up with diplomacy, of old Israeli sins and American acquiescence finally generating a level of indignity in the Arab World that has started to impact on an otherwise rational quest for peace and justice. This has happened because the symbolism of the expellees is more than just symbolism — it touches the very core of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the 20th century Arab dilemmas. In physically throwing out hundreds of Palestinians from their home and land in blatant defiance of clear international legal conventions, the issue embodies the most fundamental dynamics of the predatory, colonial, and racist Zionism that has plagued the Arabs, particularly the Palestinians, for nearly a century; it simultaneously reflects the parallel international, particularly American, attitude that appears to give Israelis more rights and respect than it gives to the Arabs.

Into the middle of this emotional and political maelstrom rides a new U.S. secretary of state, making peculiar statements to the

effect that since Israel has allowed 100 of the expelled Palestinians to return home, the Arabs should sit back and enjoy the show. Unfortunately, he seems to miss the point of what is happening in the Arab world and the broader Islamic and third worlds. Perhaps he will learn some of this when he visits the region. Let us hope he has the capacity to seek out the truth of the reality that defines the lives of several hundred million Arabs. His personal credentials and experience, coupled with the egalitarian political impulses of the Clinton crowd, are good omens for dialogue and genuine understanding.

The truth Mr. Christopher should seek out appears relatively simple: Most of the Arab/Muslim people of this region are disappointed and fed up with fact-finding missions, getting-to-know-you missions, confidence-building missions, exploratory missions, mediating missions, crisis management missions, keep-the-lid-on missions, visit-the-troops missions, show-the-flag missions, pancake-making missions, tourism missions, sunbathing missions, weapons-selling missions, and falafel-eating missions by distinguished officials from the West. Our sense of Arab hospitality and humanism tells us to remain courteous and welcoming, but our sense of history tells us to distinguish carefully between a mechanical going-through-the-motions and diplomatic substance, between the fluff of routine and the stuff of substantive fate.

It has been nearly eight decades since the MacMahon-Sherif Hussein correspondence in the second decade of this century launched the modern era of Arab-Western diplomacy in the quest of Arab national rights. Why are we still corresponding with an array of western powers that seems reluctant to assure us the same rights as the Israelis? This is the basic question that gnaws at the emotions and dignity of every Arab and Muslim. The West's double standards are part of the landscape in which we grew up and matured — as individuals, communities, and countries — but they have become too much to bear without a gesture of our contempt and angry defiance — a self-defeating gesture, perhaps, but an emotionally satisfying one to the majority of Arabs. That gesture is now on the table: the peace talks cannot continue unless the expelled Palestinians are allowed to return home and U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 is fully implemented.

The deeper implication of this gesture is more significant than its short-term repercussions: the Arabs are frustrated, angry, and insulted by the extent of Israeli aggressions and western diplomatic double standards, and they are willing to drop the peace talks altogether until they see an end to this long cycle of Israeli oppression and American-western acquiescence. For many Arabs, this was a convenient excuse to suspend a peace process that they did not have much confidence in from the start.

The Arabs are particularly outraged because the mass expulsion of the Palestinians was quickly followed by a typical display of American-Western diplomatic contortion and political racism.

From Mr. Christopher's statement to the effect that the Israeli offer to return 100 expellees should prompt no further Arab diplomatic moves, we understood the following message: the U.N. resolutions against Iraq have to be complied with fully, but the U.N. resolutions against Israel need only 25 per cent compliance to get the White House seal of approval.

The audacity of it all suddenly struck home to most Arabs: we are being played with, and we have been since the early days of this century. The broader implications of how Hamas' Islamist politics fit into the regional picture are secondary in most people's minds, because the primary objective of Arab diplomacy and street sentiment now is to send a message to Israel and the West: enough is enough. Arabs are more concerned to feed their own emotional and political needs than to respond to the complexities of other people's diplomatic games. The prevalent purpose is psychological survival; who cares if Hamas or anyone else rules this region, what matters is only to send the message to the West and Israel. We are human beings who should be treated as human beings. It's a simple message, and an ancient one as well...

We have warned the West for years about double standards and Israel's violations of international law, and for years we have not been taken seriously. The West and Israel assumed we would only complain, but remain in diplomatic line. It seems that the majority of Arabs have reached a threshold, a point of no return where emotional anger turns to political action. The full impact of the Arab posture on the peace process remains unclear; and, from the perspective of the majority of Arabs, it also appears irrelevant. Most Arabs see the peace process as little more than entertainment by hostage performers, largely geared to American eyes and played according to Israeli rules. This is what I mean by history catching up with diplomacy.

The western obsession with stability as the primary goal of Middle Eastern diplomacy has led to political order in which Israeli supremacy and Arab subjugation are the rule. The Arabs are now saying that this can no longer remain unchallenged, that our dignity is as important to us as oil or stability or moderation. The risks are high in such a political attitude that is driven mostly by a combination of Israeli audacity, American-western indifference, and Arab weakness and emotionalism.

The fact is, Israel and the West do not much care if we attend the peace talks or not, and the American-Israeli attitude sees the Middle East's problems and pressures as manageable in the short term. There is something to be said for the "feel good" brand of diplomacy that the Arab side is practising now. It is an important occasional shot in the arm, a sort of diplomatic chest-pounding and psychological muscle-flexing that frees the soul of passing demons and haunting ghosts, but perhaps does little more than that. We shall soon find out, with yet another round of talks with yet another important visitor from the West.

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In Somalia, prospects for successful handoff to U.S. unclear

By Reid G. Miller
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The U.N. Security Council is expected to approve a major peacekeeping force in the coming weeks for this shattered, famine-stricken land — perhaps its biggest ever.

The U.N. special envoy to Somalia predicts the blue-helmeted force may number up to 20,000 — 3,000 more than in Cambodia, its largest current operation.

But even that number may not allow U.N. peacekeepers to effectively carry on the work of the 38,000-strong U.S.-led military coalition.

The mission could succeed, according to most veteran aid workers, but there are a couple of big ifs:

If the Security Council breaks tradition and gives them a mandate that permits them to move aggressively against Somali warlords who step out of line, and to shoot first if threatened.

If they are intelligently led, given a well-defined mission and adequately equipped with helicopters, planes and armoured vehicles.

If they are not spread out evenly across all of Somalia, a country about the size of Texas, but concentrated in areas of greatest need.

The U.N. peacekeepers will take over from the Americans and 23 allied nations who have sent troops to protect food meant for the starving from falling into the hands of thieves.

The takeover will permit the United States to withdraw about 20,000 of its men and women, leaving an estimated 4,000 behind to help handle logistics and other support tasks for the U.N. force.

But Ismael Kittani, the U.N. special envoy, said the peacekeepers will be responsible for all of Somalia. The U.N. mandate of the American-led coalition confines it to the southern half of the country, where the famine, clan fighting, looting and banditry are the worst.

"Peacekeeping is not what this country requires," said Mike McDonagh, the Dublin-born head of Irish Con-

cern in Somalia.

"Twenty-thousand would do the job, but it would still need a strong American presence and leadership," Mr. McDonagh said. "And it'll need a tough mandate. I worked in Cambodia for seven months and I saw the 17,000 peacekeepers there," he said.

"They've been made idiots by the communist Khmer Rouge. Kidnapped 10, 12, 14 at a time. They can't even defend themselves."

Mr. McDonagh's thoughts were echoed by Siefaluzi Milas, a Mozambican sociologist who works as a consultant for U.N. Children's Fund.

"Given the proper terms of reference, I think 20,000 would be enough," Mr. Milas said. "But they'll need the right equipment, particularly helicopter gunships."

The principal battle machine of the warlords is the technical," Mr. Milas said, referring to civilian vehicles, usually trucks and pickups, mounted with machine guns and light artillery.

"The helicopter gunship can make a technical a highly undesirable vehicle," Mr. Milas noted.

Rhodri Wynn-Pope, a retired Army major who now runs Care International's Somali operation, also argued for strong, continued American involvement, a well-defined mission for the peacekeepers and the same rules of engagement the U.S. and its allies now employ.

"The question is, do you have a credible deterrence and are you willing to use it?" Mr. Wynn-Pope said. "The Americans proved from day one that they were willing to zap anyone who strayed out of line. If the U.N. force is seen as purely defensive, we're going to lose the momentum we've been given by the Americans," he said. "It needs to be able to take aggressive action in support of a policy of impartiality and contain the militia forces in the country. And it's not going to be able to do that if it's spread the length and breadth of Somalia."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has said he expects the U.N. mission to last years. But a Wynn-Pope question remains unanswered for the moment:

"Is the U.N. force going to keep on providing security?"



LETTERS

Identifying an identity

To the Editor:

In an admirable and remarkable article entitled "Then, we shall have stability" (Jordan Times, Jan. 26, 1993), Rami Khouri describes the state of affairs of the Arab World in terms of a series of conflicts. He rightly points out that at the core of these conflicts lies the most basic one: The conflict between the individual and the tribe. His exposition of these conflicts is another illustration of his clear writing style, his acute sense of history, and his general open mindedness. If there is a complaint about his writing, however, it is that he seems to assume that the reader is well informed. I am writing this letter to seek a clarification that concerns an important idea in his commentary.

Towards the end of his article, it seems that the mood changes from informing the reader about the situation in the Arab World today to offering a prediction of what will happen in the future. Thus, Mr. Khouri says, these conflicts combined with the practices of the West and its Arab allies "will only aggravate these existing confrontations, and hasten the process by which the natural Arab/Islamic identity of this region will assert itself." Although Mr. Khouri's thesis is interesting and, in my opinion, useful, it is nevertheless incomplete.

His thesis is not as complete as one wants it to be because he failed to define what he means by the expression "natural Arab identity." I got the impression that this expression corresponds to something hidden in our history; and if that thing is revealed, it will guide us to the solutions of all our problems. Of course I might be wrong. But the point I want to make here is this: The expression "natural Arab identity," as it occurs in the article, is ambiguous, for it is possible to interpret it in the following ways:

— Arab identity is a unique, fixed concept that can be discovered if we study Arab/Islamic history carefully, and such a discovery will have considerable bearing on our actions and future;

— Arab identity is a concept that is always in the making and does not necessarily depend on history; rather, Arabs shape their identity in accordance with their pragmatic needs.

I am not claiming that these two alternatives exhaust all the possibilities that cover a complex notion like "Arab identity." All I am saying is that Mr. Khouri's article does not clarify such a notion, and therefore his thesis appears to be incomplete.

Actually it is worth noting that many people tend to argue that the question "What is an Arab?" is not a real question at all. Many Arabs feel that the answer to such a question is obvious and therefore it is an absolute waste of time to think seriously about it, like the young student at the Baccalaureate school who emphatically said to me: "Look an Arab is an Arab, there is no need for any further explanation." But if such responses are correct, why can't most Arabs effectively discuss their identity?

In any event, I hope that upon reading these remarks, Mr. Khouri will try to clarify what he means by the expression "natural Arab identity."

Ayman Yasin,
Amman.

Legal and moral obligations

To the Editor:

The Israeli proposal to return 101 expelled Palestinians and to reduce the length of exile of the remaining men only emphasises the urgency of the need to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 799. Nothing in that resolution mentions a partial implementation; instead, it says that all expellees should be returned to their homeland at once. To do less is both inhuman and illegal.

We would like to draw attention to the fact that expelling people from their own country by an occupying power violates articles 43 and 49 of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention and the Hague Regulations of 1907 and that, pursuant to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Commentary to the Fourth Geneva Convention, the expulsion or transfer of "protected persons," i.e. persons living under belligerent occupation, is illegal and constitutes a grave breach of the Convention.

Why do Israeli human

King urges youth contribution

(Continued from page 1)

democracy-building process, to absorb the new developments and changes in the modern age and interact with these developments with comprehensiveness and awareness.

Stressing that the Kingdom's national role emanates from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, King Hussein said that these principles form the basis for "our concepts, our aspirations and our future."

Emphasising the need for the youth to abide by the concepts of moderation, King Hussein said: "There is need for avoiding extremism, accepting other people's views, and respecting the values emanating from our faith and our heritage."

"By realising his full rights and duties and the importance of contributing towards the construction of the future, each citizen must be able to exert his efforts towards creating a model state of which everyone will be proud," the King said.

Jordan, the King added, is capable of leading the way for a

Human rights centre takes shape

(Continued from page 1)

our age and had human rights been honoured the Palestine question would not have festered for so long and we would not have suffered so much," the prime minister said.

He said due to the lack of democracy and freedom the world witnesses continued sufferings for the people of Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and other parts of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

"We would not have seen divisions and in-fighting among Arabs nor would we have witnessed an impotent Arab World unable to rise to the minimum level required to challenge an ever changing world had there been democracy and freedom," Sharif Zeid said. Jordan "has sought to overcome numerous obstacles impeding the march of

PLO, Hamas clash over peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

upon them not to answer to those advocating division and those seeking their own interests and their capitulation views."

Meanwhile Israel is working to develop the economy of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and improve living conditions for Palestinians as part of its struggle against Islamic groups in the area, an official said Monday.

Brigadier General Fredy Zach, an Israeli defence ministry official responsible for economic policy in the occupied territories said in occupied Jerusalem Hamas had won Palestinian support through networks of services it provided to poor people.

"What we believe is that by entering these areas, by improving the infrastructure, by providing better services, by creating more jobs within these areas, this also is one of the means by which the state of Israel can cope with Hamas," Gen. Zach said at a news conference.

He said the Israeli occupation authorities were working to improve communications, electricity and water supplies to the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He also said the authorities had lifted restrictions on the establishment of industries by Palestinians and had given licences to dozens of new factories in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including flour mills and a cement factory.

Gen. Zach said some 90 factor-

Air collision kills 132 in Tehran

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier, IRNA cited witnesses as saying one crewman parachuted. Rescue workers wore masks as fleets of ambulances ferried the dead from the area. Only the Russian pilot had been identified.

Aviation inspectors launched a search for the plane's in-flight "black box" recorders, which could provide clues.

It was not clear if anyone on the ground was killed. Most of the wreckage of Flight 962 fell in a 500-square-metre open area at a

Rabinovitch sees early talks resumption

(Continued from page 1)

the government," Mr. Rabinovitch added. "And, for me, personally, I think it's a very good basis to start from."

In Tel Aviv, Israel Education Minister Shulamit Aloni said Sunday she expected the peace talks to resume in April, and suggested that by then the controversy over the Palestinian expellees would be resolved.

She told foreign reporters at a news conference that the delay in the talks was a logistical result of the Clinton administration of taking office and Muslim and Jewish holidays in the spring.

Mrs. Aloni, of the left-wing Meretz party, also said other countries were being asked to take some of the approximately

No talks without evictee return — PLO

(Continued from page 1)

Resolution) 242," Dr. Shaath said.

Dr. Shaath said the Palestinian conditions were discussed at talks between Mr. Arafat and President Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa. Mr. Arifat left Cairo for Tunis Monday after three days of talks.

Dr. Shaath said the United States, co-sponsor of the peace talks which began in 1991, must use its influence with Israel to take back all Palestinian evictees immediately, otherwise it would lose its credibility among Arabs.

"We discussed the conditions that will create better success when we go back to the peace talks. In essence, we consider that the return of the evictees is a necessary but not a sufficient condition," Dr. Shaath told Reuters.

Among the conditions, he said, were a demand for an active U.S. role in confronting Israeli proposals to partition the West Bank and to leave Jerusalem out of the peace process which he said had created an impasse in the talks even before the expulsions.

"Not only are these proposals non-starters but they require a U.S. response for implementing the terms of reference. (U.N.

ridors or were being transferred to other hospitals.

In front of the hospital, one body lay in a car and another was laid out in a pick-up truck.

The bombardment was the heaviest since maverick Mujaheed chief Galibuddin Hekmatyar, leader of the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami party, launched his latest attack on President Burhanuddin Rabani three weeks ago.

Hospitals say 3,000 people have been injured and hundreds killed in the last three weeks, although the exact number of dead was not known since few bodies are brought to hospitals.

Government jet bombers circled overhead on bombing raids against Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters to the south of Kabul.

Tanks patrolled the streets.

Some residents loaded belongings into vans and said they would go to the eastern city of Jalalabad. About one-third of Kabul's 1.5 million people fled in fierce fighting last August.

Asked why he had not left earlier, Microrayon resident Ahmad Shah said: "We are people who don't have the ability to pay for transport out."

Several embassies have been hit in the latest fighting and U.N. officials said the offices of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees were badly damaged by a rocket last week. All U.N. international staff left Kabul last August.

India evacuated all embassy staff last week and the few remaining embassies — Turkey, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, North Korea and the Palestinian mission — are considering closing.

Mr. Abdallah said unemployment in the occupied territories was about 40 per cent of the work force.

Israel says it views Islamic fundamentalist groups as the main threat to its rule in the occupied territories.

Israeli security sources said the military authorities also prepared plans to crack down on schools, medical centres and charitable institutions it believed were run by Islamic groups to undermine their influence in the occupied territories.

Mr. Abdallah said some 90 factor-

ies had opened in the Gaza Strip and 83 others in the West Bank over the past year. He said the authorities had also agreed in principle to allow a Jordanian bank to reopen West Bank offices which were closed since 1967.

Israel has kept tight control on development in the occupied territories since 1967, restricting the growth of agriculture and industries which could compete with Israeli products.

Palestinians say Israel's strict licensing policy, the lack of banking and credit institutions and tax policies have hampered development in the occupied territories.

"These Israeli measures, even though they are positive, are so small that they are unlikely to have any impact on our economy," said Samir Abdallah, a Palestinian negotiator and economic expert at the Middle East peace talks.

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1993

8th Arab Soccer League Champions' Tournament

Jordan's Al Faisali play UAE's Al Shabab today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's 1992 First Division titleholders Al Faisali Tuesday play the first of their matches at the 8th Arab Soccer League Champions' Tournament held in the Qatari Capital Doha Feb. 8-18.

The tournament opened Monday at Qatar's Al Arabi Club's Hamad International Stadium with seven finalist teams taking part. The first group includes Egyptian Champions Al Ismaili, United Arab Emirates' (UAE) champion Al Shabab and Jordan's Al Faisali. Tournament titleholders Morocco's Al Widad are the first group's fourth team but have declined to play in the final round.

The second group includes Tunisia's Al Tarji club, Qatar's Al Arabi, Saudi Arabia's Al Shabab and Palestine's Al Quds.

The seven participating teams will play an elimination round until Feb. 14. The top two teams of each group will qualify to the second round



Al Faisali

which begins on Feb. 16.

Jordan's Al Faisali will play their first match against the UAE's Al Shabab Tuesday and meet Egypt's Al Ismaili Sunday. The fact that the first group consists of 3 teams enhances Al Faisali's chances of qualifying to the second round.

The Jordanian titleholders had met Qatar's second team Al Rayan in a friendly match

so a record 21 times ever since.

In 1992 they became the only team to have won the Soccer Shield, the Jordan Cup and League titles in the same season.

Al Faisali's 28-member delegation includes players: Milad Abbasi, Anis Shafiq, Raed Ahmad, Ziyad Abu Shabab, Mohannad Mahadin, Ihab Naser, Firas Al Khalilah, Ahmad Khalil, Adnan Awad, Subhi Suleiman, Subhi Awad, Mousa Awad, Nader Ragheb, Ja'far Hamimad, Ali Al Zu'bi, Jiryes Tadros, Khaled Awad, Hassan Al Massri, Ishaq Al Mashini, Saleh Abdul Rahim, Riyad Hassan and Jamal Abu Abed. The team's head coach is Mazhar Al Saed.

the first Arab Soccer League Champions' Tournament in 1981 was won by Iraq's Al Shurta club. Saudi Arabia's Al Ittifaq won in 1984, Iraq's Al Rashid won in 1985, 1986, 1987, Al Ittifaq won back the title in 1988 and Morocco's Al Widad is the current titleholder of the seventh tournament held in 1989.



Andre Agassi

No time for Marseille to celebrate

PARIS (R) — French champions Marseille hit six goals in a league match for the first time in two years but had no time to celebrate as they eyed the chances of toppling the table for the first time this season.

The only team from the top six to win at the weekend, Marseille closed the gap on leaders Monaco to just one point after the 6-1 thrashing of Nimes and could go top if they win in Le Havre Wednesday.

Monaco, who dropped a point in a goalless draw in Montpellier, have a tough home game against fifth-placed Bordeaux in Wednesday's league programme — brought forward because France have a world cup qualifier in Israel next week.

With two goals each from German Rudi Voeller and midfielder Franck Sauzeau and a first strike for Ukrainian signing Igor Dobrovolski, Marseille showed signs they are hitting the sort of form which could take them to a record fifth consecutive title.

But Belgian coach Raymond Goethals was characteristically dissatisfied, dwelling on the goal his team conceded rather than the six scored.

Wenger was untroubled by Monaco's second hard-fought draw in a row. "Two points from visits to Lens and Montpellier suit us fine," he said. "A lot of other teams will lose there."

Less happy were the trainers of Paris St. Germain and Nantes, who both dropped points to fall a point behind Marseille.

The Paris club's Portuguese coach Artur Jorge was furious with his team's first half display in the 1-1 draw at Valenciennes.

"At halftime I told the players if they continued like that they would lose," he said. "We have to understand it's important to start playing from the opening whistle. We must go out aggressively, in the positive sense. We didn't and Valenciennes took advantage." Nantes travel to Lens Wednesday while Paris St. Germain entertain Montpellier.

Juventus suffer at Atlanta

Italian soccer giants Juventus lost another bout in their battle to keep up with runaway leaders AC

Milan, going down 2-1 at Atalanta to sink an embarrassing 13 points behind the champions.

The Turin side, accustomed to life in the top flight, now lie in fifth place in the league.

They had not been beaten at Atalanta in Bergamo since 1963, but coach Giovanni Trapattoni was gracious in defeat.

"This was a fair result. Atalanta were more incisive, while we conceded too much space and were duly punished," he said.

Trapattoni appears happy with his attacking formation, however, and said he intended to continue playing the "five star" attack of pier Luigi Casiraghi, Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Baggio, Englishman David Platt and German Andreas Moeller.

Moeller equalised for Juventus after Atalanta had gone ahead in the 36th minute through Carlo Perrone, but Maurizio Ganz scored again in the 72nd improving Atalanta's fine home record this season to 18 points from 10 games.

The anticipated clash between Maradona and Deportivo's Brazilian striker Bebeto never materialised as the home team dominated all areas of the game, blotting out the former Argentine captain and needing no individual heroics from Bebeto.

Deportivo now have 33 points from 21 games and stay two clear of Real Madrid, 2-1 away winners over bottom club Real Burgos. Barcelona, held 1-1 at home by Tenerife, are a further two points back in third place and have taken only four points from their last five games.

"He (Agassi) probably has as much ability as anybody in the game," Gilbert said. "But in my humble opinion, (Jim) Courier's just won the Australian Open and it's going to be tough for anyone to take him down."

"If someone else does get to No. 1, they're going to have to take it away from somebody who wants it an awful lot."

Agassi showed plenty of determination Sunday night.

Agassi, playing exceptional

tennis, was about to complete a straight sets victory when impatience got the best of him. He double-faulted on double match point, and Gilbert eventually forced a tiebreaker, which he won 7-4.

That was about the only similarity between Andre Agassi and Boris Gilbert Sunday night. Agassi continued on his path toward regaining a place among the tennis elite, beating Gilbert 6-2, 6-7 (4-7), 6-2 for his second San Francisco title in four years.

Agassi, ranked ninth in the world, is positioning himself for a run at the top. He's never been higher than number three, in 1988.

The International Chess Federation is due to open sealed bids in Lucerne, Switzerland, for sponsors for the title match starting in September.

The British are especially keen to hold the match in Britain because Short, 27, is the first Englishman to get so close to the world title in more than a century. He beat Dutchman Jan Timman in playoffs in Spain last month.

Short, who left school at 17 to concentrate on chess, is the first player from outside the former Soviet Union to contest the finals since American Bobby Fischer beat Boris Spassky in 1972.

Short, arriving back in Britain from Spain Sunday, said he would soon start physical training for the eight-week match but made clear that personalities would dominate the contest.

Of Kasparov, he said: "He is incredibly arrogant, he's power hungry, he's a very nasty guy."

He added: "There will be a lot of pleasure in beating him."

"I'm pleased with the result, the goals and the chances created.

"However, the best thing of all is something else, it is the way they were still striving hard when they were 4-0 up, trying to score another goal. That's the right Milan mentality."

Coach Fabio Capello probably sent shivers down his opponents' spines after the game, when he told a radio reporter: "We played well today and this game shows that we are improving."

Milan go to Atalanta next Sunday.

Lazio produced the other strong performance of the day.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNIA HIRSCH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A108 ♠10953 ♣K8 ♣KJ109
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. Pass 2. Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A982 ♠A1073 ♣865 ♣K676
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. Pass 2. Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦K1087 ♠854 ♣A965 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. Dbl ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 2. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 3. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 4. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 5. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 6. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 7. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 8. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 9. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 10. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 11. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.15—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 12. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.16—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 13. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.17—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 14. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.18—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 15. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.19—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 16. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.20—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 17. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.21—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 18. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.22—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 19. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.23—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 20. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.24—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 21. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.25—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 22. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.26—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 23. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.27—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 24. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.28—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 25. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.29—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 26. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.30—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 27. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.31—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 28. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.32—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 29. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.33—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 30. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.34—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 31. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.35—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 32. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.36—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 33. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.37—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦A98 ♠K96 ♣A973 ♣K965
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1. NT Pass 34. ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

S. Korea steps up war on fakes

EOUL (R) — South Korea will launch a major new drive to protect foreign patents and copyrights to ease trade friction with the United States and other countries, a state prosecution spokesman has said. He said the prosecution's anti-counterfeiting team had been doubled in size to 500 members, ready for a nationwide crackdown on counterfeiters.

Foreign manufacturers of designer goods have accused South Korea of being one of the world's chief producers of fake brandname products.

The team has targeted those who counterfeit trademark items such as bags and clothes, computer software pirates and bootleggers in video, audio and publications.

"The special clampdown will continue until the end of April and we are going to apply strict criminal sanctions against violators," the spokesman said.

"Trade friction with the United States and other foreign countries will escalate unless we enforce anti-counterfeiting laws strictly," he pointed out.

South Korea, where many brandname goods such as Reebok and Nike sports shoes are produced legitimately under licence, has a thriving counterfeiting industry.

Seoul's Itaewon district, next to the main American military base, is notorious for its \$20 fake Rolex watches, counterfeit designer shirts and fake brandname sportswear.

Financial Markets **Jordan Times**
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York		New York	
	Closes	Date: 5/2/93	Closes	Date: 8/2/93
Sterling Pound	1.4445	1.4501		
Deutsche Mark	1.6605	1.6580		
Swiss Franc	1.5525	1.5515		
French Franc	5.6125	5.5976		
Japanese Yen	124.40	124.35		
European Currency Unit	1.7555	1.7765		

USD per STG

* European Opening (at 10:00 a.m. GMT)

Euromoney Interest Rates Date: 8/2/93

Currency	Date: 8/2/93			
	1 MTHS	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.25	3.31	3.65
Sterling Pound	6.25	5.87	5.75	5.50
Deutsche Mark	8.31	8.06	7.62	7.12
Swiss Franc	5.18	5.20	5.00	4.87
French Franc	11.25	11.25	10.25	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.06	3.18	3.18	3.18
European Currency Unit	9.37	9.18	8.93	8.50

Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 8/2/93

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm ²
Gold	328.25	6.35	Silver	3.67	.080

21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 8/2/93

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940	Sterling Pound
Deutsche Mark	0.4171	0.4192		
Swiss Franc	0.4512	0.4535		
French Franc	0.1233	0.1239		
Japanese Yen	0.5562	0.5590		
Dutch Guilder	0.3707	0.3726		
Swedish Krona	0.0929	0.0934		
Italian Lira ^a	0.0452	0.0454		
Belgian Franc	0.02022	0.02032		

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 8/2/93

Currency	Bid		Offer	
	Bahraini Dinar	1.8150	1.8290	Lebanese Lira ^b
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1850		
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2300	2.2900		
Qatari Riyal	0.1875	0.1886		
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150		
Omani Riyal	1.7620	1.7830		
UAE Dirham	0.1875	0.1886		
Greek Drachma	0.3050	0.3160		
Cypriot Pound	1.3940	1.4200		

* Per 100

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	6/1/93	Close	7/2/93	Close
All-Share	194.53		194.86	
Banking Sector	139.00		139.25	
Insurance Sector	214.62		216.94	
Industry Sector	270.50		270.89	
Services Sector	258.66		258.63	

Brusel 31. 1990 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2624/29	Canadian dollar	
	1.6525/35	Deutschmarks	
	1.8600/10	Dutch guilders	
	1.5282/92	Swiss francs	
	33.92/96	Belgian francs	
	5.5890/940	French francs	
	15261529	Italian lire	
	124.42/47	Japanese yen	
	7.4455/555	Swedish crowns	
	6.9800/900	Norwegian crowns	
	6.2900/3000	Danish crowns	
One sterling	1.4410/20		
One ounce of gold	\$327.50/328.00		

Arab Financial Services expands into Mastercard

MANAMA (R) — Arab Financial Services Co. E.C. (AFS), a close ally of Visa in the Middle East, announced Monday it had branched out to deal with Mastercard as well.

The Bahrain-based firm, owned by close to 60 Arab banks and financial institutions, said in a statement it had completed development of an on-line computer link with the Mastercard Corporation in the United States.

It said it had become the first financial institution in the region to provide bureau processing services — whereby it processes credit card payments and billings on behalf of other banks which issued these cards — for Mastercards.

AFS does not for Visa cards. It also issues Visa travellers cheques — more than any other company in the world except Barclays PLC.

Japan's auto output drops 5.6 per cent

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's motor vehicle production fell by 5.6 per cent in 1992 to 12,499,384 vehicles, including mini-cars, because of a decline in domestic sales, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association has said.

It was the second consecutive year that the output had declined from the previous year.

Tadashi Kotake of the association attributed the decline to a 7.2 per cent decrease in domestic sales amid Japan's economic slump.

Mr. Kotake said the association estimated that exports in 1992 also declined by 1.3 per cent from 1991 to 5.68 million vehicles.

The 1992 production totalled 9,378,694 passenger cars, including 780,934 mini-cars, down 3.8 per cent; 3,068,585 trucks, including 857,087 mini-trucks, down 11.0 per cent, and 52,005 buses, up 17.0 per cent from 1991. Mr. Kotake said.

Algeria's '93 national plan sees 2.1% growth, 1.4% fall in purchasing power

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria is planning for its economy to grow by 2.1 per cent this year but living standards will keep falling at least till 1995 and unemployment will keep rising.

The population is expanding at 2.5 per cent a year and the 126,000 new jobs expected this year will be little more than half the number needed to maintain unemployment at the current level, 20 per cent of the workforce.

The forecasts come in the 1993 national plan, still being examined by the unelected National Consultative Council. The official news agency APS has released some details.

The authorities set up the council to advise them in the absence of elected parliament.

Shaken by poverty riots in 1988 and Muslim fundamentalist unrest since 1991, the authorities are determined to avoid more social unrest. Officials say poverty helps swell the ranks of fundamentalists waging war on the security forces.

Inflation is running at over 30 per cent and Algeria has seven

million people below the poverty line. Last year it began welfare payments to compensate partly for the abolition of subsidies on foodstuffs other than bread, milk and semolina.

Last month it passed a 1993 budget with a 168 billion dinar (\$7.5 billion) deficit, pumping money to sensitive areas like defence and internal security, job creation and education.

APS said that under the 1993 plan: "Per capita income ... will continue to fall for two to three more years and will see an improvement from 1995. The plan for 1993 envisages a fall in purchasing power in the order of 1.4 per cent."

With restrictions on foreign exchange, the plan sees, activity in industries based on imports, except in priority areas such as building, public works and pharmaceuticals.

Oil and gas earn over 90 per cent of Algeria's foreign income and the agency said that outside this field, production would only take off significantly when new investments in oil and gas started to bear fruit.

Algeria has signed over 25 contracts with foreign firms since 1986 to search for new oil and gas fields. Last November it said it was negotiating investment of nearly \$4 billion with foreign oil companies.

Efforts to end a chronic housing shortage for Algeria's 26 million people should provide about 31,000 new jobs. World Bank experts have initialised an accord, expected to be finalised next month, for a low-cost housing loan worth \$200 million.

But according to the housing ministry, 40 per cent of building materials are imported and the \$500 million or so spent on imports last year met only 53 per cent of needs.

The plan says Algeria must grow more to

Relief flights resume to Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — International relief flights to the embattled Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, halted for two days after rebel Serbs hit a German plane with anti-aircraft fire, resumed Monday.

Reporters in Sarajevo said four flights landed Monday morning and a total of 14 were due during the day.

The flights, ferrying supplies of food and medicine to some 380,000 trapped residents, are coming from the Croatian port of Split and from U.S. Air Bases in Germany, officials said.

Flights from Zagreb, the Croatian capital, have been halted since Saturday when the German C-160 Transall transport plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire shortly after take-off. A crewman was badly injured.

Foreign commercial airlines also shunned Zagreb Monday for a second day. The U.N. relief flights and the commercial airlines are waiting until they are confident the air corridors to and from the Croatian capital are safe.

Meanwhile, Serb forces fired four mortar bombs into besieged Sarajevo Monday. Bosnian radio said, as international mediators prepared to brief the U.N. Security Council on their efforts to secure peace.

The early morning attack on the Bosnian capital's Novo Sarajevo district broke a lull in fighting since Sunday evening, local journalists said.

The radio warned Sarajevo's 380,000 trapped residents against venturing into the streets, urging

them not to be lulled into a "false sense of security" after a quiet night.

It reminded listeners that three people were killed and six wounded Sunday despite a halt in major military activity.

A mortar bomb slammed into a group of people waiting for water, killing two women and a child.

Monday's Security Council meeting will be the body's first review of peace proposals drafted by mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen to end Europe's worst conflict since World War II.

A fresh wave of ethnic fighting swept across Bosnia and along Croatia's Adriatic coast during the weekend while U.N. talks failed to push Bosnia's warring Muslims, Croats and Serbs any closer to a settlement.

Mr. Vance and Lord Owen were to brief the Security Council on their so far futile efforts to get all three communities to accept a map carving the republic into 10 semi-autonomous provinces largely along ethnic lines.

The proposed map appeared to fuel the latest fighting. U.N. officials said Serbs were driving Muslims from their homes in eastern Bosnia to "cleanse" areas which they would control.

No quick move was expected by the Security Council and there appeared to be little chance of an agreement before the new Clinton administration produced its own plan.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in an interview Monday that he hoped the



A Serbian fighter fires his machine gun towards Croatian positions in Gornji Bajani, 80 kilometres from Knin, the capital of the Serb-held enclave of Krajina (AFP photo)

United States would back sanctions rather than force to end fighting.

Mr. Hurd told the German daily *Staedte und Zeitung* that stiffer sanctions were the only practicable way forward.

The United Nations imposed stiff economic sanctions on the rump Yugoslavia of Serbia and Montenegro last May for its blocking of Serbs in Bosnia, bringing its ailing economy close to collapse and forcing it to ration fuel and electricity.

The Bosnian bloodshed spilled over at the weekend in some of

the worst violence in several weeks in neighbouring Croatia, where government troops attacked the Serb-held enclave of Krajina above the Adriatic coast on Jan. 22.

The Krajina front was quiet overnight after both sides reported weekend artillery, tank and infantry assaults on villages in a belt from the Croatian ports of Zadar to Sibenik.

Ivica Ceško, Croatian army spokesman for the Zadar region, said Croatian forces in the area had repelled a major Serb counterattack Sunday.

The Serb rebels in Krajina, who have declared their own state, rejected a request from Lord Owen and Mr. Vance for quick talks to stop the fighting, saying they would meet only after the Croats withdraw from areas they captured in their offensive.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Tudjman's party heads for victory

ZAGREB (R) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's right-wing party was heading for victory in regional elections as preliminary results Monday morning showed it well ahead of opposition in most of the country. Croatian Radio said Mr. Tudjman's Croatian Democratic Community (HDZ) party was leading in most of the 16 counties for which results were available, after half the vote had been counted. There are altogether 21 counties. The radio said the HDZ was behind only in Varazdin and Medjumurje counties, to the north of Zagreb, and in Istria county on the northernmost part of the Adriatic coast. Voting took place Sunday and the result is expected to consolidate the political grip of Mr. Tudjman, whose army is waging a popular offensive against Serb rebels. Twenty-seven parties fielded candidates for a new upper house of districts, largely a rubber-stamp body, and 8,037 county and town councils across the former Yugoslav republic.

U.N. observer stabbed in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A United Nations' observer, in South Africa to monitor violence, was dragged from his car and stabbed in Johannesburg's Alexandra township, police said Monday. Captain Eugene Opperman said Jim Anderson was stabbed in the arm after being pulled from his car by a group of men who stole the vehicle at the weekend. No arrests have been made but the car has been recovered.

Fighting began less than a month later, spreading quickly throughout the country and has killed an estimated 10,000 people.

A second round of peace talks is due to begin Wednesday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

But Angolan national radio re-

ported Sunday that delegates from UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), rebels until government forces attacked the city in early January. Back-and-forth battles that followed have reportedly left the city in ruins and people facing starvation.

A government battalion also clashed with rebel troops at Caimbambo, about 48 kilometres east of Catumbela.

Caimbambo is the first of several towns the government must take if it is to open a supply route to Huambo from the coast, Gen. Armando Da Cruz Neto told the Associated Press in the Catumbela Command Centre.

"Huambo needs a passage to the sea to survive," Gen. Armando said. He said people in Huambo were dying of starvation. It was not possible to immediately verify the report.

Fighting began less than a month later, spreading quickly throughout the country and has killed an estimated 10,000 people.

Artillery duels continued Sunday in Huambo, about 240 kilometres east of the government's regional command centre.

Greece expels hundreds of Albanians

"I like Greece," said Ilir Hoja as he crossed into Albania, carrying a bag with his belongings. "I'll come back again."

A Greek police officer nodded grimly. "I know you will," he said.

"I've seen some of them so many times they even say hello. It's almost unbelievable," he said.

The officer spoke on condition of anonymity, in accordance with regulations.

The government last week announced a nationwide sweep to detain and expel an estimated 500,000 foreigners — mostly economic migrants — who have entered illegally over the past three years.

About 90,000 Albanians were deported in 1990 and 85,000 in 1991. No figures have been announced for 1992.

Public Order Minister Nikos Gelestathis blamed the immigra-

rants for rising crime. They include economic refugees from the former East Bloc, the Middle East, Asia and Africa. But it is the Albanians, who number about 150,000, who have been blamed the most for the rise in crime.

Although no massive dragnet for all illegal aliens has materialised yet, police have intensified the deportations of Albanians.

Greece began deporting Albanians in 1990 when tens of thousands of them entered Greece at the time of the collapse of Albania's Communist government.

"About 90,000 Albanians were deported in 1990 and 85,000 in 1991. No figures have been announced for 1992.

Prince Sihanouk wants presidency with power

province, which bore the brunt of recent fighting, continued to remain tense, he said.

Last week the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) accused the government army of mounting a coordinated attack against the Khmer Rouge. UNTAC said the offensive went beyond the self-defence rule in the peace accords signed in October.

The fighting was described as the "most serious" ceasefire violation since the arrival of the 22,000-strong contingent of U.N. peacekeepers last March.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen last week insisted that all government military action had been within the zones it was recognised to control at the signing of the peace accords. He said the Khmer Rouge has taken advantage of the peace agreement to infiltrate these areas and built up positions with heavy weapons and ammunition.

Isolated skirmishing between Khmer Rouge guerrillas and government soldiers was reported to be continuing in long-troubled Kompong Thom province in the central part of Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge has refused to cooperate with UNTAC and implement the terms of the U.N.-sponsored peace agreement it and two other guerrilla groups signed with the government.

It refuses to disarm or to take part in nationwide elections.

Several districts in Battambang

N. Korea accuses U.S. of using inspections to spy

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea issued a strongly worded statement Monday charging that the United States is attempting to use international nuclear inspections to spy on military bases.

The statement by North Korea's Foreign Ministry accused Washington of infringing on the North's sovereignty by using spy satellites and turning the information over to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

"The IAEA has no right to use information offered by a third country" in its nuclear inspections, said the statement, carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

It accused the United States of trying to gain access to North Korean military facilities through the IAEA inspections.

"We can neither accept nor tolerate any matter infringing upon the sovereignty and security of our country," it said.

The harsh comments, monitored in Tokyo, appeared to reflect a growing isolation in one of the world's last hardline Communist nations and frustration at its failure to attract foreign investment to bolster its sagging economy.

Western intelligence reports have for several years indicated that North Korea may have a clandestine nuclear weapons development programme. North Korea claims its nuclear programme is peaceful, and last year allowed international inspections, which have not been completed.

Rao rejects regional talks on nuclear arms

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday rejected the idea of talking to Pakistan about nuclear disarmament, saying suspicion between the two countries runs too deep.

"I have the feeling that this subject, when discussed between India and Pakistan, will lead nowhere," Mr. Rao told a telephone caller from Islamabad, Pakistan's capital. "Our suspicions about each other persist."

Mr. Rao was speaking from his New Delhi home on an hour-long phone-in programme by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Aired on both radio and television, the call was from a man who will be interviewed over the next few weeks on the BBC by telephone callers.

Indirectly dismissing the U.S. favoured approach of regional solutions to nuclear tensions, Mr. Rao said dismantling nuclear arsenals was a worldwide issue.

"These problems cannot be solved on a regional basis. They are global in nature and the solution also has to be global in nature," he said.

Both India and Pakistan admit they have nuclear capability, but each denies it has acquired weapons. Western disarmament

experts suspect that both have bombs that could be quickly assembled.

Pakistan wants a five-nation conference, including the U.S., Russia and China, to talk about ending the nuclear threat in South Asia.

Hours before the programme, India announced that it had conducted its 10th test firing of a prototype missile, the Prithvi, which would be capable of delivering nuclear explosives to Pakistan. The missile has a maximum range of 155 miles (250 kilometres).

Mr. Rao fielded questions ranging from education for Muslim women and birth control to a host of doubts about India's economic reform programme. Most of the calls were from India. But some telephoned from cities around the world, including several calls from the United States.

Mr. Rao conceded India's economic reforms have been ignored for two months while the government dealt with a resurgence of Hindu nationalism and a flare-up of Hindu-Muslim riots that cost 1,000 lives.

"We have gone back to the economic agenda and ... we are making up for the lost time," Mr. Rao said.

Keating starts campaign with bold Asia plan

CANBERRA (R) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, buoyed by a new public opinion poll, kicked off his election campaign Monday with an ambitious plan to integrate the markets of Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Keating's trade vision aggressively grabbed the initiative on the eve of a key Labour policy speech on economic recovery, the main issue in the run-up to the March 13 general election.

Mr. Keating, fighting his first election after ousting Bob Hawke in late 1991, unveiled his trade proposals as an opinion poll, carried in the local edition of *Time* magazine, showed Labour slightly ahead of the opposition conservative coalition.

Mr. Keating said his new trade plan would create "... a market of two billion people producing half the world's output, bound together with harmonised trade rules, harmonised investment rules, harmonised standards and certification, and an agreed way

of settling disputes between members."

It would include Australia and New Zealand, South East Asia, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, and North America.

The plan is the culmination of

Mr. Keating's campaign to identify himself with a brave new Australian future as part of Asia.

He has been pushing the idea since he became prime minister while at the same time characterising the conservatives as clinging to former colonial power Britain's apron strings.

While Mr. Keating played the role of regional statesman, Liberal-National Coalition leader John Hewson publicly challenged him to keep what is expected to be a close and bitter campaign clean.

"I want to begin this campaign by issuing a formal challenge to the prime minister, and that is that it be a no-lies campaign," Mr. Hewson told reporters.

Fabius presses for trial in French blood scandal

PARIS (R) — Former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius insisted Sunday that he wanted to stand trial in France's long-running AIDS scandal despite a legal ruling that too much time was elapsed for the case to be heard.

"Everyone accepts that I am innocent but I do not want to take advantage of a statute of limitations because I do not want shadows to remain," he told RTL Radio.

Mr. Fabius, now head of the Socialist Party, was commenting on a decision by judges Friday that a three-year time limit for the specific charge against him and two other former ministers had expired.

The three were charged in a

parliamentary high court with failing to assist persons in danger over the infection of haemophiliacs with the AIDS virus in the

Column 10

Diana tops in royal popularity

LONDON (AP) — An opinion poll taken after the most recent royal sensations indicates Princess Diana is still the most popular royal, but her estranged husband Prince Charles has plummeted in the public's eye. The Gallup poll, published Monday in the Daily Telegraph, also says 65 per cent of those asked favoured a more approachable, "democratic" monarchy, like that of the Netherlands. Twenty-four per cent said the British royals should stay as they are, and 9 per cent said the monarchy should be replaced by a non-executive president.

Also Monday, South Korean President Roh Tae Woo urged the North to renounce development of nuclear weapons to pave the way for eventual unification.

Mr. Roh said concerns over North Korea's alleged nuclear weapon development were the main obstacle for improved inter-Korean relations and pose a threat to international security.

"This is my message to (North Korean leader) Kim Il Sung," Mr. Roh said. "Please renounce development of nuclear weapons to foster mutual trust and prosperity, and to work toward achieving the national unification we

Western intelligence reports have for several years indicated that North Korea may have a clandestine nuclear weapons development programme. North Korea claims its nuclear programme is peaceful, and last year allowed international inspections, which have not been completed.

Western nations, including Japan and the United States, have refused to provide economic assistance until concerns over alleged North Korean nuclear

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